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TITLE: Real-time communications fraud monitoring system

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FIG. 2 shows the structure of an exemplary call detail record 50 received by fraud monitoring processor 28. Call detail record 50 includes one or more key data fields 52 (the contents of which are shown in the drawing as "Record i"), which uniquely identify the record. Attribute data in each record are designated 54-1 through 54-N, where N indicates the number of different attributes or characteristics of the call which the record describes. In the context of long distance calling, these attributes may include the calling number (54-1), the time of access (54-2), the terminating (called) number (54-3), the call duration (54-4), an indication of whether the call was complete or incomplete (54-5), the authorization code or 800 number used to gain access to the network (54-6), the type of originating station (e.g., a pay phone, ordinary telephone, cellular telephone, etc.) (54-7), or other attributes (54-N) which identify the call and may be useful in determining whether the call represents an abnormal use of the communication network for the subscriber.